

PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1107370

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

**PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Number: 1107370

Trustees: Carol Ann Ross
Patricia Margaret Hooper
Yirga Berhane (resigned 10 June 2025)
Louise Wojcicki
Michelle Kelly
Sharon Adams
Charlotte Ritchie (appointed 23 June 2025)

Principal: Louise Wojcicki

Operating Service from: Pembury Pre-school
16 Atkins Square
Dalston Lane
London E8 1FA

Phone: 020 8985 4484

Email: carol.sinclair@pemburypreschool.co.uk

Accountant: Margaret Trotter FCCA
205 Well Street
London E9 6QU

Bankers: HSBC
London

PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL is a registered charity

The Charities governing instrument is its Pre-school Learning Alliance Model Constitution 2011

PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Pembury Pre-school was registered as a charity number on 1107370 on 21 December 2004. The Charities governing instrument was updated to the Pre-school learning Alliance Model Constitution 2011 adopted by the Committee of Trustees on 17 November 2016

The members of the Trustees Committee present their reports and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees, who oversee the strategic direction and overall compliance of the charity. The day-to-day management is delegated to a combination of appointed management officers and company staff, including a full-time Manager.

Trustee Recruitment and Support

Trustees are drawn from both the parent community and local professionals. Trustees remain in post until a new nomination is made by a parent or local representative. All new trustees are required to sign a Charity Commission Trustee Declaration and receive internal support to fulfil their duties. Occasional training is also offered through Hackney Education, particularly in relation to Ofsted requirements and charity governance.

Current Trustees

- **Carol Ross** – Chair
- **Michelle Kelly** – Trustee / Staff Member
- **Louise Wojcicki** – Manager / Trustee / Staff Member
- **Pat Hooper** – Treasurer
- **Sharon Adams** – Parent Representative
- **Yirga Berhane** – Secretary (resigned 10 June 2025)
- **Charlotte Ritchie** –(appointed 23 June 2025)

Please note: Louise Wojcicki, Michelle Kelly and Pat Hooper were also paid members of staff. All trustees have signed a written agreement confirming they receive no remuneration for their role as trustees.

Insurance and Legal Compliance

The charity holds comprehensive insurance cover including:

- Employer Liability: £10 million
 - Public Liability: £5 million
 - Trustee Indemnity and Loss of Revenue: Covered
- This ensures the organisation remains protected across all operational and governance areas.

Key Regulatory Relationships

1. Ofsted

The preschool is registered with Ofsted (Registration No. EY554421), which allows us to operate sessions longer than two hours per day. Our most recent inspection, on 5th September 2024, rated us as Good.

We operate from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, term-time only, and currently offer breakfast and after-school clubs, which support working parents. We are working towards becoming a 52-week-a-year provision.

2. Hackney Education

Hackney Learning Trust is our main funding partner, providing early years funding for children aged 9 months to school age.

We receive funding under the following schemes:

- **Disadvantaged 2-Year-Old Funding:** 15 hours free entitlement
- **New 2-Year-Old Offer for Working Parents** (introduced April 2024): 15 hours
- **Universal 15 Hours for 3- and 4-Year-Olds**
- **30 Hours Extended Entitlement** for eligible working parents

In addition, we may receive:

- **EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium)**
- **DAF (Disability Access Fund)**
- **Two core grants per term:**
 - **Subsidised Childcare Programme (SCP)**
 - **SEND Worker Grant** (due to be phased out from **January 2026**)

Funding schemes come with both quality and financial criteria. For example, under the SCP, at least 40% of families must have household incomes under £25,000. Compliance also requires a Good Ofsted rating, staff training, and engagement in professional networks.

While government funding has increased, these gains have been significantly offset by rises in National Insurance contributions, rent, staffing costs, and general inflation.

Staffing

All staff are:

- Fully qualified
- DBS-checked every three years
- Trained in all required statutory areas: safeguarding, child protection, first aid, and food hygiene

We continue to face recruitment challenges, which reflect a national shortage of early years practitioners. Despite this, our manager continues to explore multiple recruitment strategies to ensure we maintain quality and ratios.

Objects

The principal object of the Charity is to advance the education and development of children below compulsory school age, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). We aim to provide high-quality early education and care, including working in partnership with external agencies such as children's social care, speech and language therapy services, and specialist teachers for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Objectives and Activities

The Charity is committed to advancing the education, development, and wellbeing of children under the age of five, particularly focusing on the most vulnerable in our community.

Our key objectives and activities include:

- Delivering inclusive, high-quality early education and childcare to all children under five, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, children eligible for the two-year-old funded entitlement, and children with SEND.
- Supporting working families by offering places to children from 9 months old, enabling access to education, employment, and training.
- Providing flexible childcare options, including support for parents in education or training, and offering respite care when needed.
- Ensuring the safety, wellbeing, and holistic development of every child is prioritised through our practice.
- Following the Early Years Foundation Stage framework to provide a rich, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate environment.
- Collaborating with a range of external professionals and agencies—such as speech and language therapists, social workers, and specialist teachers—to ensure that each child receives the support they need to thrive.

Public Benefit Statement

Our charity exists to advance the education and development of young children, particularly those under the age of five, and we operate in a way that demonstrates clear public benefit in line with the Charity Commission's guidance.

We support working families by offering childcare from as early as 9 months old, providing a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment where babies can thrive. We work closely with parents to ensure the holistic development of each child across all areas of learning and care.

We offer targeted support to two-year-old children eligible for government-funded places. This includes children from disadvantaged backgrounds, who benefit greatly from access to rich experiences they may otherwise not encounter—such as outings to the coast or countryside, cooking sessions, story days (where children receive a free book), and "dough days" to support fine motor development. These experiences are offered at no cost to families, and we actively encourage parental involvement to strengthen family bonds and engagement with early education.

Our educational approach follows the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**, focusing on learning through play and each child's individual interests. We monitor and track children's development

carefully to ensure they are meeting age-appropriate milestones and provide early intervention where needed.

We work collaboratively with external professionals and agencies—including Speech and Language Therapists (SALT), Social Care, and SEND specialists—to provide wraparound support to children and families. Where appropriate, we signpost families to external services or welcome visiting professionals into the setting to deliver support directly. Our trained staff run language enrichment groups, which are particularly beneficial for children with speech and language delays and those who speak English as an additional language.

Our setting is fully inclusive. We are led by a dedicated Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), and where appropriate, provide one-to-one support for children with complex needs. We have supported many children and families through the process of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), to secure support once they transition to school. In response to reduced external support from the local authority (HLT), we have invested in our own Level 3 Qualified Special Educational Needs Practitioner, which has significantly enhanced our capacity to meet children's needs. However, we are preparing for changes in funding, as current support is expected to be phased out starting in January 2026.

Achievements and Performance

The past year has been one of growth and continued success for our setting, with key developments that have strengthened both our early education provision and the support we offer to families.

Ofsted Inspection

One of our major achievements was receiving a **Good** rating from Ofsted in our most recent inspection, held on **5th September 2024**. This positive outcome reflects the dedication and hard work of our team and the high standards of care and education we provide.

Expansion to Care for Babies (9 Months +)

From April 2025, we began welcoming children from 9 months old, in line with the government's expansion of funded childcare. Our manager led the process to meet all regulatory and environmental requirements for under-2s, ensuring a safe, nurturing space for our youngest children. This has already supported several parents to return to work earlier than planned. These children are now eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare, rising to 30 hours from September 2025.

Support for Working Families

We continue to offer 30 hours of free childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds of eligible working parents, which remains a vital service for local families. We work closely with parents to ensure they can access this entitlement effectively and flexibly.

Health and Development Support

We support early health intervention by hosting the 27-month health checks on our premises, with the support of a named Health Visitor. This close collaboration enables early identification of health and developmental concerns and ensures families are well-supported in accessing appropriate services.

Safeguarding and Multi-Agency Work

With the expansion of our space, we now regularly host reviews for children in need and child protection meetings, led by children's social workers. This provides a familiar and supportive environment for families and professionals. Our safeguarding officers actively participate in child protection and children in need conferences, reinforcing our commitment to safeguarding the welfare of every child.

Health and Wellbeing

We are proud to have an accredited lead practitioner in health within our team. She provides guidance to families on a range of topics including oral health, nutrition, healthy eating, and overall wellbeing. We operate a seasonal menu, promoting balanced diets and variety, and also support parents with healthy packed lunch ideas, which has received very positive feedback.

In recognition of our efforts, we were awarded the Bronze 'Healthy Early Years' Award, a Mayor of London initiative, which acknowledges our commitment to improving children's health and reducing health inequalities from an early age.

Financial Review

Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 March 2025.

The financial results for the year are as follows:

- **Total Income:** £249,997 (2024: £244,717)
- **Total Expenditure:** £256,094 (2024: £241,312)
- **Deficit (Surplus) for the Year:** -£6,097 (2024: £2,405)

Income increased by £5,280 compared to the previous year. This reflects an increase in grant funding from the Hackney Learning Trust, while fee income from parents dropped significantly.

Expenditure increased by £14,782, mainly due to rent rise and increase in children's services and equipment costs.

All income and expenditure during the year was unrestricted.

The charity generated a deficit of £6,097 for the year.

Reserves Policy

As at 31 March 2025, the charity held reserves of £122,143 (2024: £128,240), all of which are unrestricted.

The Trustees have agreed to set aside a designated reserve of £60,000, equivalent to approximately three months of core operating costs, to ensure continued financial stability and the ability to respond to unforeseen events.

Plans for the Future

Looking ahead, our primary aim is to maintain and build upon our current Ofsted 'Good' rating by continuing to deliver high-quality, inclusive early years education and care. We will remain committed to supporting as many children as possible, regardless of their background, ability, or level of need.

Key priorities for the coming year include:

- **Expanding our provision for under-2s**, ensuring we meet the increasing demand from working families as the new funded hours become available in September 2025.
- **Enhancing support for children with SEND**, particularly in light of expected funding changes from January 2026. We will continue to invest in our internal capacity to maintain specialist support.
- **Sustaining strong partnerships** with external agencies such as speech and language services, health visitors, and social care to ensure our children and families receive comprehensive, wraparound support.
- **Improving health and wellbeing outcomes** by building on our success with the Mayor of London's Healthy Early Years programme and working toward achieving the **Silver Award**.
- **Continuing staff development and training** to ensure our team is confident, up to date, and well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of our children and families.
- **Preparing children for school transitions**, with a focus on language, independence, and emotional readiness.

Risk Management

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility for identifying and managing the risks facing the charity. Although a formal, documented risk assessment has yet to be completed, the Trustees regularly review key operational and financial risks during committee meetings.

The charity is planning to return to achieving an annual surplus from next year. As of the reporting date, the charity holds reserves of £122,143, supporting the Trustees' assessment that the charity is a going concern.

Key risks currently identified include:

- **Staff Recruitment:** While the number of children attending the setting is increasing, there is an ongoing national shortage of qualified early years practitioners, which poses a risk to staffing levels and continuity of care.
- **Funding Uncertainty:** With the planned **phasing out of SEND funding from January 2026**, the charity is reviewing how to sustain specialist support for children with additional needs.
- **Cost Increases:** Rising operational costs, such as national insurance contributions, rent, and wages, continue to place pressure on the budget despite increased government funding.

The Trustees are committed to strengthening formal risk management procedures, including the development of a risk register and documented risk mitigation plans, to ensure the charity remains financially and operationally resilient.

Events Since the End of the Year to Date

In June 2025, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM), during which we reviewed the past year's achievements, discussed future plans, and engaged with trustees and stakeholders to strengthen our shared vision.

We are excited to announce that we have a new, year-long initiative: the 'Edible Garden' project, which began in September 2024. A specialist company will visit our setting once a week for a full year, delivering interactive sessions that teach children how to grow their own food—from seed to harvest. The project will promote hands-on learning, healthy eating, and environmental awareness.

This initiative will be offered to all children, with parents and carers warmly invited to participate and observe their child's learning journey. We believe this will provide a valuable and memorable experience for our families and further reinforce our commitment to health, wellbeing, and outdoor learning.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice).

The Trustees must ensure that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, as well as of the incoming resources and application of those resources for the financial year.

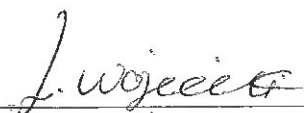
In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on: 10/10/2025

Signed on behalf of Pembury Preschool by: LOUISE WOJCICKI

Trustee Signature: 
Trustee Name: LOUISE WOJCICKI

PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATORS REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees Pembury Pre-school

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

This report is made solely to the Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Trustees, those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the Trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under Section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state where particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity

Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed

23/10/2025



MARGARET TROTTER FCCA

205 WELL STREET, LONDON E9 6QU

Pembury Pre-school Playgroup
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Fund 2024/25	Restricted Funds 2024/25	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Playgroup Fees	23297	0	23297	36282
LB Hackney	224989	0	224989	203498
Other income and recharges	1711	0	1711	3937
Total incoming resources	249997	0	249997	243717
 Resources expended				
Charitable expenditure:				
Premises	26009	0	26009	21560
Staff	209848	0	209848	208446
Supplies and services	20237	0	20237	11306
Total resources expended	256094	0	256094	241312
 Net movement in funds	-6097	0	-6097	2405
 Brought forward funds	128240	0	128240	125835
Fund balances carried forward	122143	0	122143	128240

Pembury Pre-school Playgroup
Balance Sheet
As At 31 March 2025

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors & Prepayments	2622	6705
Balance at bank	124501	129575
	<u>127123</u>	<u>136280</u>
CREDITORS : amounts falling due within one year		
HMRC + creditors	4979	8040
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>122144</u>	<u>128240</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>122144</u>	<u>128240</u>
FUNDS		
Restricted funds	0	0
Designated funds	60000	60000
Unrestricted funds	62144	68240
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>122144</u>	<u>128240</u>

Approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:

10/10/2025

Trustee signature

L. Wojcicki

Trustee name

LOUISE WOJCICKI

PEMBURY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Trustees Report and all of which are continuing. Fixed assets are only to be capitalised when they cost over £1,000 and will be depreciated at the rate of 25% per annum. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" with applicable accounting standards on the accrual basis.

2. Fund Accounting, Risk and Reserves Policy

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives. Designated funds are amounts that have been set aside at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Restricted funds are funds that are spent in accordance with specific restriction imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for specific purpose. The cost of raising and administrating such funds is charged against the specific fund.

3.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources represents the total income receivable during the year comprising grants and placement fees from the Learning Trust, and fees from parents.

4. Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Charitable expenditure comprises costs of staff and resources in furtherance of the charity's objects.

Reserves	at 1/4/2024	Incoming	Outgoing	at 31/3/2025
Unrestricted	£1128,240	£249,997	£256,094	£122,143

Unrestricted funds are £122,143 and we have designated £60,000 of these funds towards building a fund toward to 3 months running costs of the charity amounting to £64,000.

5 Related Party Transactions

The Board of Trustees consist of parents nominated from the parents advisory group and other local childcare professionals. Parent Trustees of children who use the nursery do so on similar terms as non-committee members. No Trustee received remuneration for being a Trustee. Three Trustees were remunerated members of staff in the year, Pat Hooper and Michelle Kelly and Louise Wojcicki.